

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SY-05 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 SCCT-01 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 EB-07 DOTE-00
FAA-00 CAB-02 /085 W

R 232000Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 497
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

[REDACTED] SANTIAGO 7198

ALSO FOR A/SY/FO

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CI, AR, ASEC
SUBJ: INTERNAL SECURITY: GOC CREDITS MIR WITH BOMBING ARGENTINE
AIRLINE OFFICIALS

REF: 75 SANTIAGO 6143

1. HORACIO MAZZUCCO, THE ARGENTINE REGIONAL MANAGER OF
AEROLINEAS ARGENTINAS STATIONED AT SANTIAGO, RECEIVED
SEVERE BURNS ON HIS HANDS AND FACIAL LACERATIONS WHEN
HE OPENED A CIGARBOX-SIZED GIFT IN HIS OFFICE THE MORNING
OF JULY 19. SUBSEQUENT ANALYSIS DETERMINED THAT MOST OF
THE EXPLOSIVE FLASHED INSTEAD OF DETONATING, THUS SAVING
HIS LIFE. ACCORDING TO SECURITY FORCES, THE PACKAGE HAD
BEEN SENT FROM RANCAGUA BY "MANUEL IRIARTE R." A FICTITIOUS
PERSON WITH THE INITIALS MIR. IT IS SAID THAT THE MIR
INTENDED TO REVENGE THE DEATH OF A MIR LEADER, EDGARDO
ENRIQUEZ, WHO THEY ALLEGE WAS TURNED OVER TO CHILEAN
AUTHORITIES BY ARGENTINE FORCES. ARGENTINE EMBASSY
OFFICIALS TOLD US THAT MAZZUCCO HAD RECEIVED NO PREVIOUS
THREATS AND HAS NO POLITICALLY PROMINENT FAMILY CONNECTIONS

ARGENTINE PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(☒) Release (☐) Excise (☐) Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: (☐) In Part (☒) In Full

(☐) Classify as (☐) Extend as (☐) Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

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AT HOME.

2. COMMENT: THE GOC HAS RARELY GIVEN THE MIR CREDIT FOR A SUCCESSFUL TERRORIST ATTACK. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT AT LEAST THREE OTHER SIMILAR DEVICES HAVE RECENTLY BEEN FOUND: TWO WERE DUDS BUT ONE ALLEGEDLY EXPLODED IN A GOVERNMENT MINISTRY. THERE WAS NO PUBLICITY. WHEN A LOW-POWERED DEVICE EXPLODED ON THE EVE OF THE JUNTA'S ANNIVERSARY LAST SEPTEMBER, INJURING "LA SEGUNDA'S" MANAGING EDITOR(REF), THERE WAS PUBLICITY BUT NO ATTRIBUTION TO THE MIR. IN THE PAST, THE GOC'S OBVIOUS INTEREST IN PLAYING UP THE MIRISTA THREAT TO JUSTIFY CONTINUED SEVERITY IN THE SECURITY AREA HAS BEEN OFFSET BY RELUCTANCE TO TELL CHILEANS THAT THE MIR CAN OPERATE SUCCESSFULLY.

3. TECHNICALLY THE DEVICES WERE OF POOR QUALITY, PARTICULARLY THE EXPLOSIVE, MECHANICALLY FUSED, AND RELATIVELY UNSOPHISTICATED. THE BOMB WAS SENT THROUGH THE INTER-URBAN BUS LINE PACKAGE SERVICE, ADDRESSED BY NAME, WRAPPED AS A GIFT AND REWRAPPED IN BROWN PAPER. THE EMBASSY IS MAINTAINING ITS MAIL AND PARCEL INSPECTION PROCEDURES.
POPPER

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